

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OECD P 05783 071701Z

46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 STR-08 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 EA-11 FRB-02 INR-10 IO-14 NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SWF-02

OMB-01 OIC-04 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03 PRS-01 PA-04 USIA-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2007

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: XCSS, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD XCSS MARCH 18-19 MEETING

REF: BERN 861

1. ASST SECGEN ABRAMOWSKI HAS CONFIRMED TO US THAT XCSS CHAIRMAN JOLLES HAD SPOKEN TO HIM AND TO SECGEN SEVERAL TIMES IN LAST WEEK OR SO TO EXPRESS RESERVATIONS ABOUT DATES FOR XCSS AND TO SUGGEST SECGEN CANVAS DELEGATIONS ON POSSIBILITY OF POSTPONEMENT.

2. HOWEVER, ABRAMOWSKI SAYS JOLLES HAS ACCEPTED SEC-GEN'S ARGUMENTS FOR MAINTAINING PRESENT SCHEDULE ON BASIS (A) THAT FINDING NEW DATES WOULD BE LONG, UNCERTAIN MATTER, (B) PREPARATION TIME, ALTHOUGH SHORT, IS NOT UNUSUALLY SO, (C) THERE IS NO CERTAIN DELAY WOULD MAKE MEETING MORE PRODUCTIVE, AND (D) OVERLAPPING WITH ECG IS NOT SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM. FURTHERMORE, NO DELEGATION SUGGESTED POSTPONEMENT EITHER IN MEETING MEN-
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PAGE 02 OECD P 05783 071701Z

TIONED PARA 5 REFTEL OR IN OTHER CONTACTS WITH SECRE-

TARIAT. EVEN JOLLES MADE CLEAR HE WAS SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF AS CHAIRMAN RATHER THAN FOR SWISS GOVERNMENT, WHICH WAS NEUTRAL ON QUESTION.

3. MEETING WILL GO AHEAD AS SCHEDULED. ABRAMOWSKI INDICATED, INCIDENTALLY, THAT JOLLES WAS PREPARED TO CONTINUE AS CHAIRMAN IF REQUESTED.

4. COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN SOME DISCUSSION AMONG PERMANENT DELEGATIONS OF DESIRABILITY OF POSTPONEMENT, BUT AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE NO GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN FORMAL POSITION FAVORING POSTPONEMENT. WE ARE INCLINED TO THINK MEETING SHOULD BE HELD AS SCHEDULED. FRENCH AMB VATERY EXPRESSED SAME VIEW TO CHARGE THIS MORNING. LIMITED TIME FOR DEVELOPING POSITIONS AND SECRETARIAT'S IMPORTANT AND DETAILED POLICY PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT (CE(74)3 MAY, OF COURSE, AFFECT OUTCOME OF MEETING. THERE IS SOME THINKING HERE THAT, GIVEN THE FACT THAT THIS LATTER DOCUMENT IS BOTH LATE IN BEING RECEIVED AND PROVOCATIVE IN POSITIVE SENSE, PERHAPS BEST WAY OF HANDLING IT WOULD BE TO HAVE IT KNOWN IN ADVANCE THAT DISCUSSION OF CE(74)3 AT MARCH MEETING WOULD BE PRELIMINARY AND ON PERSONAL CAPACITY OF DELEGATES WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO EVENTUAL GOVERNMENT POSITIONS. IN SUCH DISCUSSION OR ALTERNATIVELY, EXCHANGES MIGHT BE DIRECTED TOWARD GIVING IMPETUS TO DEVELOPMENT OF UNDERSTANDINGS ELSEWHERE IN ORGANIZATION, AS IN TRADE COMMITTEE OR IN PREPARATIONS FOR MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING, FOR INSTANCE.

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